

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, and 4-7 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and amend Claims 1 and 3 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an electrophotographic photosensitive ~~member;~~ member;
charging means for applying voltage to a charge member to charge said
electrophotographic photosensitive ~~member;~~ member;
electrostatic latent image forming means for forming an electrostatic latent image on the
charged electrophotographic photosensitive ~~member;~~ member; and
developing means for developing the electrostatic latent image,
wherein said developing means is provided with at least a developer holding member
having a developer holding member surface and configured to hold a one-component developer
containing a toner on its developer holding member surface and a developer regulating member
configured to regulate a layer thickness of a developer layer of the one-component developer on
said developer holding member,
wherein said electrophotographic photosensitive member and said developer holding
member are set opposite to each other to form a developing section,
wherein said developer regulating member regulates the one-component developer to
form a thin layer of the one-component developer on the developer holding member surface,

wherein in said developing section, the toner in the one-component developer is transferred to the electrostatic latent image held on the surface of said electrophotographic photosensitive member to form a toner image,

wherein the peripheral speed of said electrophotographic photosensitive member is 150 mm/second or more,

wherein the toner has a weight-average particle diameter of from 5 to 12 μm , and of the toner having a circle-equivalent diameter of 3 μm or more, particles with a circularity a of 0.900 or more, found according to formula (1) are present at a rate of 90% or more in a number-based cumulative value, wherein

$$\text{circularity } a = L0/L \quad (1),$$

wherein $L0$ denotes the circumference of a circle having the same projected area as a particle image, and L denotes the circumference of the particle image, and

wherein the toner satisfies the following conditions I) or ii):

I) the relationship between a cut rate Z and a weight-average particle diameter X of the toner satisfies expression (2)

$$\text{cut rate } Z \leq 5.3 \times X \quad (2),$$

wherein the cut rate Z is represented by expression (3)

$$Z = (1 - B/A) \times 100 \quad (3),$$

where A represents a concentration, defined as the number of particles/ μl , of all particles measured with a flow-type particle image analyzer FPIA-1000 manufactured by TOA MEDICAL

ELECTRONICS CO.,LTD., and B represents a concentration, defined as the number of particles/ μl , of the measured particles the circle-equivalent diameters of which are 3 μm or more, wherein the relationship between a number-based cumulative value Y of particles having a circularity of 0.950 or more and a weight-average particle diameter X of the toner satisfies expression (4):

$$Y \geq \exp 5.51 \times X^{-0.645} \quad (4), \text{ where X is in the range from 5.0 to 12.0 } \mu\text{m}; \text{ and}$$

ii) the relationship between a cut rate Z and a weight-average particle diameter satisfies expression (5)

$$\text{cut rate } Z > 5.3 \times X \quad (5)$$

and the relationship between a number-based cumulative value Y of particles having a circularity of 0.950 or more and a weight-average particle diameter X satisfies expression (6)

$$Y \geq \exp 5.37 \times X^{-0.545} \quad (6),$$

where X is in the range from 5.0 to 12.0 μm , wherein the peripheral speed ratio of said developer holding member to said electrophotographic photosensitive member is 1.2 or less at said developing section.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said developer regulating member comprises an elastomeric member, and the free end of said developer regulating member is brought into contact with said developer holding member on the

upstream side of said developer holding member ~~image forming apparatus~~ relative to said developing section in the rotation direction of said developer holding member, forming the thin layer of the developer on said developer holding member surface..

Claims 4-7. (Cancelled)